

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Office of the Mayor

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City Finalizes Purchase of 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue

STAMFORD, CT – The City of Stamford earlier today finalized its purchase of 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue from the Sisters of St. Joseph for a purchase price of \$9.75 million. The purchase was met by widespread support on the Planning Board, Board of Finance and Board of Representatives, and hailed as a historic purchase for the city.

Mayor David Martin and Sister Susan Cunningham were joined by other Sisters of St. Joseph, local elected officials, City staff, and community members in a signing ceremony held at the Stamford Government Center. Following the ceremony, the Mayor and Sisters traveled to the property, where the Sisters presented the key to the property to the Mayor. The Mayor also toured the property along with City officials.

"This is a truly historic day in the City of Stamford. I am proud and humbled by the City's acquisition of this incredible property and thank the many individuals on our boards and in City Hall who made this day come to fruition. The Sisters are passing on a rich legacy grounded in education and commitment to this community, a legacy I know the City will continue to embrace in the years to come," said Mayor David Martin.

The 10.8 acre property is the former site of Sacred Heart Academy, which closed in 2006, and most recently as the site for the Stamford Campus for The Stanwich School.

The campus also includes the C.J. Starr Barn and Carriage House, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. In the application submitted by the Sisters to the National Park Service, the Sisters stated that the structure is "the sole remaining structure of its kind in the city" and that it "provides the residents of Stamford with a link to a previous era."

The Mayor announced the fields would soon become available for use by the City's Parks & Recreation Department, allowing the public to begin enjoying the property this fall.

Photos from the signing and key presentation ceremonies are attached.

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